



Environmental Health

June 2002

New Rules for Registering as a Sanitarian in Arizona

The Governor's Regulatory Review Council approved new Rules for Registered Sanitarians in Arizona. The new rules have been filed with the Secretary of State. They became effective May 16, 2002. Some important points about the new rule include:

- 1) **Annual renewal must be done by December 31st each year.** If registration is not renewed by February 15th, the registration will expire, requiring the person to: a) apply for the examination; b) pay the application fee; c) receive approval to take the examination; d) pay the examination fee, and; e) pass the exam.
- 2) Change of name or address shall be provided to the Council by written notice within 30 days from the date of the change. Please...no more excuses that "I moved and didn't receive my renewal application"!
- 3) Examination (not renewal) fees are raised to \$110.
- 4) There is no longer a limit on the number of times one can take the exam.

Chapter 8 5-Year Review

Most of Title 9, Chapter 8 is now under a five year review. The five year review is an administrative process done within ADHS by our team of rule writers. The purpose is to determine if the rules are needed and to determine whether they need updated language changes or modifications to accurately reflect the needs of the State.

Once the five year review is completed, there is an eighteen month window in which the rules can be modified and go through the rule making process.

Rules that are in this chapter include:

- Public Toilet Facilities
- Trailer Coach Parks
- Camp Grounds
- Public & Charter Schools
- Hotels & Motels
- Bottled Water

FDA Standardization

The FDA has a very involved process for standardizing sanitarians in the FDA Food Code. The process involves many joint inspections, HACCP plan development, writing of risk management plans, documentation of continuing education, and training of other people wishing to be standardized.

ADHS has learned that the official FDA standardization certificate can only be given to those

individuals that are trained by the FDA regional food specialist. Currently there are two State (FDA standardized) people who have completed training through the regional food specialist. There are others who are in the midst of standardization from the two FDA standardized people. Those who complete their training from the State will receive an ADHS issued certificate as being Standardized in the 2000 Arizona Food Code.

The FDA maintenance requirements will not be required by the ADHS. The FDA maintenance requirements involve attendance at the Regional Food Safety Conference annually and standardizing five additional people per year. The requirements are not practical for most of our counties due to fiscal constraints.

Wastewater

We have received comments that our newsletter is biased toward the sanitarian working within the food safety area, with little attention paid to those sanitarians working in the wastewater field. We hear your comments! Now, we need a volunteer to write a wastewater column for the newsletter. As you know the newsletter is done quarterly, and follows the meeting of the Sanitarians' Council. If you would like to write a column for this newsletter, please notify Don Herrington at 602-230-5909.

Database Development

ADHS is developing a database for tracking permits and inspections. ADHS is willing to share this database (when completed) with counties who might find it beneficial to their operations. If you would like more information, contact Richard Cox at 602-230-5908.

FDA Innovative Grants

The FDA has announced the availability of grants for the upcoming year for Innovative Food Safety Projects. Information can be obtained within the next few days (the info has yet to be posted, but is expected soon) at the following web site:

<http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/default.htm>

The grants appear to be a way of getting funds to deal with issues that confront you and many others. Last year Coconino and Maricopa County received 2 of the 13 the grants awarded nationally.

Meat Date Marking

You may have seen or heard about a Dateline NBC program having to do with the date marking of meat products at the retail level. The story was about stores that got caught by the camera changing the original sell-by date to a later sell-by date. In Arizona, meats are not required to have sell by dates, but if there is a sell by date, that date cannot be changed. The Food Code is clear about this issue in section 3-602.12(B), where the Code states, "Food Establishments or manufacturers' dating information

on foods may not be concealed or altered.

Food Bio-Security Specialist

The ADHS is creating a position to work with industry and regulators in the area of bio-security. The need to protect the food and water supply is a major concern and challenge in light of the years' past events. The ADHS is creating a food biosecurity program to proactively address this need.

The money for this position is from a bioterrorism grant through the Center for Disease Control & Prevention. The person will not be required to be a sanitarian, but will need to possess excellent written and verbal skills and the ability to develop an effective cooperative environment with both industry and regulators. Public speaking and presentations skills are needed for community and professional presentations.

The position will be officially a Health Program Manager II, with a working title of Food Bio-Security Specialist. The salary range begins at \$32,522 for this Grade 20 position. If you want more information, contact Don Herrington at 602-230-5909.

Training Opportunities

There are two major training opportunities upcoming.

The Office of Regulatory Affairs at the FDA has announced the development of "ORA University (ORA U)". ORA U is free web based training for some 50,000 regulators engaged in regulation of foods and drugs across the United States. Information will be passed along as more is learned about the program.

The second opportunity is for 2003. The FDA will hold a 2 ½ day training in July 2003 on Food Processing. Tentatively, the training is scheduled for July 8 – 10, 2003 at Arizona State University West. More details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

Pool Rules

The hearing and comment periods for the new Public and Semipublic Bathing Places rules have been completed. The rules will finally go to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council for approval in August.

Major changes to this rule include flexibility in the kinds of disinfectants that can be used in pools and outlining specific means of handling fecal accidents.

Did You Know?

According to a National Environmental Health Association Survey, NEHA's *2002 Nationwide Salary & Benefits Survey of Local/County Environmental Health Professionals*, the average salary for environmental health professionals begin at \$31,235 for trainees (nationwide) and average \$57,402 for managers/supervisors in Region 2 (Arizona is in Region 2). Portions of the survey are in the April 2002 Journal of Environmental Health.

Also, 91% of environmental health professionals hold bachelor's degrees, with 20% having a master's degree. 93% of the people responding to the survey have either a R.E.H.S. or R.S. credential.

To purchase a copy of the survey, \$99 for members and \$149 for non-members, contact NEHA at (303) 756-9090.
